

REMARKS:

- 1) Referring to item 10) of the Office Action Summary, please accept and approve the Drawings originally filed with this application on May 31, 2001.
- 2) The Examiner's attention is directed to a new Information Disclosure Statement being filed together with the present Response. Please consider the IDS and return an initialed, signed and dated acknowledgment copy of the enclosed IDS Form PTO-1449.
- 3) The finality of the Office Action of July 26, 2004 shall be withdrawn in view of the accompanying Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Accordingly, please enter and consider the present amendments and remarks for the further examination of this application.
- 4) Independent claims 1, 18 and 27 have been amended to further clarify that the main menu can be selectively displayed instead of and excluding the system menus, and that the main menu itself simultaneously depicts first system status information about the first cabin system and second cabin system status information about the second cabin system. These features are supported in the original disclosure, for example as seen in a comparison of Figs. 4 to 8 relative to each other, and as described at page 4, lines 10 to 18; page 9, lines 6 to 20; page 11, line 21 to page 12, line 13; page 14, lines 3 to 17; etc. Furthermore, claim 27

has been amended to recite that first status information regarding the first cabin system is shown on the first graphical aircraft symbol, and simultaneously second status information regarding the second cabin system is shown on the second graphical aircraft symbol, for example as originally disclosed in Fig. 4. Thus, the present claim amendments do not introduce any new matter. The dependent claims have been amended for proper conformance wherever necessary. Claim 17 has been corrected to depend from claim 1 rather than prior cancelled claim 5.

- 5) Referring to section 6 on page 2 of the Office Action, the rejection of claim 17 as indefinite has been overcome in the present amendment. The Examiner's explanation in sections 38 and 39 on page 17 of the Office Action is appreciated. The erroneous dependency of claim 17 from previous canceled claim 5 is regretted. Amended claim 17 now properly depends from claim 1, and like all dependent claims, it incorporates all of the subject matter of its parent claim (i.e. claim 1). Thus, claim 17 is now clear and definite with regard to "what is incorporated". Claim 17 shall be examined as incorporating all of the subject matter of claim 1 in combination with the subject matter recited in claim 17. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.
- 6) Referring to sections 8 to 36 on pages 3 to 16 of the Office Action, the rejection of claims 1 to 4 and 6 to 29 as obvious over US Patent 5,086,385 (Launey et al.) in view of US Patent 5,677,603 (Speirs et al.) is respectfully traversed. The Examiner's further explanation in sections 40 to 45 on pages 17

and 18 of the Office Action is appreciated. The independent claims 1, 18 and 27 have now been amended to further clarify the significant features of the invention that are contrary to the Examiner's assertions and would not have been suggested by the prior art.

- 7) Amended independent claim 1 now more-clearly recites the following features.

The main menu can be selectively displayed instead of and excluding the system menus. For example, note that present Fig. 4 shows the main menu without showing the individual system menus that are separately shown in Figs. 5, 6, 7, etc. Thus, the main menu itself, without displaying the system menu(s), depicts status information about the systems.

Furthermore, the main menu simultaneously depicts status information about at least two systems (i.e. first essential status information about the first system and second essential status information about the second system). For example, in present Fig. 4, the graphical aircraft icon (11) shows the selected audio channel and volume level of the cabin audio system, the graphical aircraft icon (17) shows the temperatures of the several zones of the cabin air conditioning system, etc.

These features are not disclosed by and would not have been obvious from the prior art.

- 8) As asserted by the Examiner, the system according to Launey et al. includes a main menu that is displayed on the sides of a display screen, while the currently selected system sub-menu is

displayed in the center portion of the display screen (see e.g. Figs. 12A to 12G of Launey et al.). The Examiner has further pointed out that status information is displayed in the center portion of the screen.

It is thus clear from the actual disclosure of the reference, as well as the Examiner's explanation thereof, that only the selected system sub-menu (i.e. the center portion of the display) and NOT the main menu (i.e. the side portion of the display) of the Launey et al. arrangement provides system status information. That is contrary to the presently claimed feature, whereby the main menu itself (without any system menu) depicts essential system status information.

The only way a user can get system status information from the arrangement according to Launey et al. is by calling up one of the system sub-menus on the center portion of the display screen in the embodiment of Figs. 12A to 12G, or by calling up one of the system sub-menus on the entire display screen according to the embodiment of Figs. 3A to 3N. There is no disclosure and would have been no suggestion toward an arrangement in which a main menu can be selectively displayed instead of and excluding the system menus, while depicting essential system status information about cabin systems. The Launey et al. apparatus does not include any feature or aspect that would have enabled the main menu by itself (without displaying a system menu) to depict system status information, because only the system menus make provisions for any indication of status. A person of ordinary skill would have found no suggestion or motivation toward the invention in this regard,

because the reference specifically and exclusively discloses the display of status information only from the system sub-menus (see e.g. Figs. 3A to 3N and 12A to 12G; col. 16, lines 51 to 61; col. 18, lines 37 to 44; col. 54, lines 34 to 42; col. 55, lines 19 to 48; etc.) In fact, in the operation of the disclosed apparatus, Launey et al. describes that the apparatus only calls up the status information from a corresponding system interface AFTER that system's sub-menu has been selected, in order to then display the status information on the selected system sub-menu (see col. 54, lines 34 to 38).

Moreover, the arrangement according to Launey et al. does not provide and would not have suggested or enabled the display of system status information about TWO systems SIMULTANEOUSLY. To the contrary, the Launey et al. arrangement only allows one system sub-menu to be called up and displayed at a time, and only such a system sub-menu will depict status information about only that particular individual system at any one time (see the above cited Figs. and text portions of the reference).

In sections 42 and 43 on pages 17 to 18 of the Office Action, the Examiner further addresses the inventive feature of displaying the system status of at least two sub-systems or sub-menus. The Examiner's assertions and the cited portions of the reference still would not have suggested the simultaneous display of system status information about at least two systems on the main menu that is displayed instead of and excluding the system menus.

- 9) The Speirs et al. reference, when considered in combination with Launey et al., would not have provided any additional teachings or suggestions regarding the above features of the invention, because this secondary reference has been cited merely with regard to implementing the arrangement in an aircraft with a touch sensitive LCD screen. Even if such features would have been combined with the teachings of Launey et al. as discussed above, there still would have been no suggestion toward the features of claim 1 that have been emphasized above.
- 10) Independent claim 18 as presently amended also recites similar features as discussed above.

Namely, claim 18 recites that a main cabin status display is selectively displayed on the screen instead of and excluding first and second system displays, while simultaneously showing first overview status information regarding a first cabin system and second overview status information regarding a second cabin system. This combination of features, whereby it is the main menu (or main cabin status display) by itself, without the first and second system displays, that simultaneously displays respective status information regarding first and second cabin systems, is not disclosed and would not have been suggested by the combination of Launey et al. and Speirs et al. for the reasons discussed above.

The teachings of Launey et al. are directly contrary. Namely, according to Launey et al., it is only the system sub-menu (and not the main menu) that displays status information about the respective system. The main menu by itself and without

the system sub-menu cannot display any status information. And, the overall arrangement, even with the system sub-menu, cannot display status information about at least two systems simultaneously.

- 11) Presently amended independent claim 27 also recites limitations similar to the above discussed features that distinguish the invention over the prior art. The above discussion applies here, but will not be repeated to a void redundancy.

Furthermore, claim 27 recites that the main display simultaneously includes two graphical aircraft symbols (plan views of aircraft cabin) respectively allocated to two different cabin systems, and that the overview status information of two cabin system is respectively simultaneously shown on the two graphical aircraft symbols.

In this regard, the Examiner pointed out (page 15 of the Office Action) that the Launey et al. arrangement displays a floor plan of a home similar to the display of the cabin of an aircraft. But this aspect of the Launey et al. arrangement involves displaying only a single floor plan at a time, in a single selected system sub-menu.

There is **NO** disclosure, and would have been **NO** suggestion of displaying two floor plans simultaneously, allocated to two different systems, and respectively showing system status of the two systems on the floor plans, on a main menu.

- 12) Applicants' further arguments and remarks as set forth in the prior Response dated May 5, 2004 are expressly incorporated

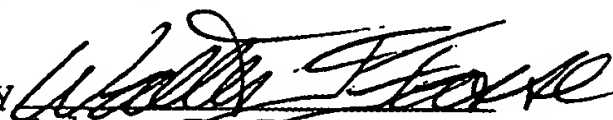
herein by reference and reasserted, because they remain pertinent to the present rejection. The Examiner is respectfully requested to review and reconsider applicants' prior arguments in relation to the present amended claims.

- 13) The dependent claims respectively recite additional features that further distinguish the invention over the prior art. But these dependent claims need not be individually discussed, because they are already patentably supported by their dependence from claims 1, 18 and 27.
- 14) For the above reasons, The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1 to 4 and 6 to 29 as obvious over Launey et al. in view of Speirs et al.
- 15) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1 to 4 and 6 to 29, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Applicant

WFF:ar/4119
Enclosures:
postcard,
RCE Request Form,
Form PTO-2038,
IDS, Second Form PTO-1449,
2 references

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 10/26/04
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